

J.C. Watts, Jr.
Chairman
4th District, Oklahoma

*House Meets at 12:30 p.m. for Morning Hour and
2:00 p.m. for Legislative Business
(No Votes Before 2:00 p.m.)*

Anticipated Floor Action:

H.R. 1175—Authorizing an Investigation into the Disappearance of Zachary Baumel

H.Res. 211—Sense of Congress on Raising Awareness of Prostate Cancer

H.Res. 207—Congratulating Community and Faith-Based Organizations

H.R. 659—PATRIOT Act



Bills Considered Under Suspension of the Rules

Floor Situation: The House is scheduled to consider the following three bills under suspension of the rules as its first order of business today. Each is debatable for 40 minutes, may not be amended, and requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

H.R. 1175 directs the Department of State to investigate the cases of Zachary Baumel, Yehuda Katz, and Zvi Feldman. Baumel, an American citizen serving in the Israeli army, along with two other soldiers (Katz and Feldman) have been missing in action since June 1982, when they were captured by forces affiliated with the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) in Lebanon. The last known whereabouts of these soldiers was in Syrian-controlled territory, under the care of a Palestinian faction splintered from the PLO. Diplomatic efforts to secure the release of these men have been periodically unsuccessful. The bill directs the State Department to discuss this matter on an urgent basis with officials of Syria, Lebanon, the Palestinian Authority, and other appropriate governments. The bill states that the willingness of these governments and authorities to assist in locating and securing the release of these men should be considered when decisions are made regarding United States economic assistance and policy. The bill was introduced by Mr. Lantos *et al.* and was reported by the International Committee by voice vote on June 10, 1999.

H.Res. 211 seeks to raise public awareness of prostate cancer and convey the importance of regular testing and examinations to fight the disease. Specifically, the resolution states the sense of Congress that American men should take an active role in fighting prostate cancer through regular testing and medical examinations. It encourages national and community organizations, along with health care providers, to promote the importance of medical examinations and testing for the disease. These groups, by providing support, services, and related information, should be recognized and applauded. Finally, the resolution states that federal government recognizes its responsibility to raise public awareness about the importance of early detection, pledges to continue funding prostate cancer research, and seeks to improve the quality of health care service aimed at the disease. The bill was introduced by Mr. Bass *et al.* and was not considered by a House Committee.

H.Res. 207 expresses the House of Representatives' support and gratitude for the efforts of non-profit, community- and faith-based organizations at community renewal and recognizes that this commitment is the key to long-term urban and rural community renewal. The resolution expresses the sense of the House that Congress and the president should work together to empower these organizations and to promote effective solutions to the social, financial, and emotional needs of urban centers and rural communities. In addition, the resolution encourages the discovery of long-term solutions to the problems faced by communities. The bill was introduced by Mr. Pitts and was not considered by a House committee.

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVIII, #18, June 18, 1999.



H.R. 659—PATRIOT Act

Floor Situation: The House will consider H.R. 659 after it completes consideration of the scheduled suspensions. On Tuesday, June 15, the Rules Committee granted an open rule providing one hour of general debate, equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Resources Committee. The bill makes in order a committee amendment in the nature of a substitute as base text and accords priority in recognition to members who have their amendments pre-printed in the *Congressional Record*. The chairman of the Committee on the Whole may postpone votes and reduce the voting time on a postponed vote to five minutes, so long as it follows a regular 15-minute vote. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Summary: H.R. 659 authorizes \$4.25 million for the National Park Service (NPS) to provide funds to Malvern, Pennsylvania and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania so that they may purchase necessary lands to protect the Paoli and Brandywine battlefields in Pennsylvania (the bill does not authorize *federal* land acquisition). Federal money must be matched dollar-for-dollar by non-federal funds. The measure instructs the Interior Secretary to administer a NPS resource study of the two battlefields once the lands have been purchased. The bill also directs the Valley Forge Historical Society, in agreement with the Interior Secretary, to construct and administer a Revolutionary War museum located in Valley Forge National Historical Park. Once construction of the museum has been completed, the bill requires that all titles and interests be transferred to the federal government with the understanding that the Valley Forge Historical Society will continue to operate the museum. The society may administer fees, sell merchandise and food, and conduct events in the museum to raise funding for its operation.

Assuming appropriations of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that enactment of H.R. 659 will cost the federal government about \$5 million over the next five years. The bill does not affect direct spending, so pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply. The bill was introduced by Mr. Weldon (PA) and was reported by the Resources Committee by voice vote on April 28, 1999.

Views: The Republican leadership supports passage of H.R. 659. An official administration viewpoint was unavailable at press time.

Amendments: The *Legislative Digest* was unaware of any amendments at press time.

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVIII, #18, June 18, 1999.



PLEASE NOTE: UNDER AN OPEN RULE, MEMBERS MAY OFFER NEW AMENDMENTS TO A BILL AT ANY TIME, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THEY HAVE BEEN PRE-PRINTED IN THE *CONGRESSIONAL RECORD*.

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